Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended)

Claim 3 (Original)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended)

Claim 6 (Original)

Claim 7 (Original)

Claim 8 (Original)

Claim 9 (Curently Amended)

Claim 10 (Currently Amended)

Claim 11 (Original)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended)

Claim 13 (Original)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended)

Claim 16 (Original)

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended)

[[An]] A self-enhancing search system comprising:

a semantic taxonomy containing semantic nodes in a hierarchical structure;

a search system text analyzer that periodically looks through [[a]] ~~document~~ documents and identifies [[a]] semantic node ~~term~~ terms in the semantic taxonomy applicable to terms used in the ~~document~~ documents;

a semantic binder attaching the ~~document~~ documents to [[the]] a semantic node term applicable to terms used in the documents; and

a relevant document finder which automatically enhances a users query with a semantic node term applicable to the users query and based on the enhanced ~~queries~~ query including the semantic node term [[to]] ~~locate~~ locates documents which do not contain a match for the users query but contain other search terms that belong to the semantic node applicable to a user's search.

2. (Currently Amended)

The search system of claim 1, wherein the enhanced search query automatically includes both "the user's search query" OR "the semantic node" to automatically without user intervention locate documents that contain a match for either the users search query term or related to the semantic node.

3. (Original)

The search system of claim 2 including a semantic dictionary which defines user query terms in accordance with the semantic nodes in [[the]] a semantic dictionary.

4. (Currently Amended)

The search system of claim 3 including a semantic dictionary builder which systematically examines the system log off line for new queries to increase the terms in the semantic dictionary.

5. (Currently Amended)

The search system of claim 4 including ranking the results of searches using the enhanced queries to place terms in the semantic dictionary in order of most often used query terms.

6. (Original)

The search system of claim 5, ~~including a text analyzer comprising~~ wherein the semantic binder includes:

a sub-module that identifies domain specific terms in a given query, using domain specific glossary;

a sub-module that finds synonyms and related terms for the identified terms, using domain specific thesaurus;

a sub-module that finds other statistically close terms; and

a sub-module that identifies relevant domain specific categories for the identified terms, using domain specific ontology.

7. (Original)

The search system of claim 6, wherein the dictionary builder includes:

a sub-module that binds queries in the identified semantic taxonomy categories, using the results of the text analyzer.

8. (Original)

The search system of claim 7, wherein the semantic binder includes:

a sub-module that adds new doc-query links to the meta-data of the corresponding textual index entries to link the documents to the semantic taxonomy categories.

9. (Currently Amended)

Self-enhancing search program on a computer usable medium comprising:

semantic taxonomy code containing semantic nodes in a hierarchical structure;

search system analyzer code that periodically looks through a document and identifies a semantic node term in the semantic taxonomy applicable to terms used in the document;

semantic binder code attaching the document to the semantic node term;

a query enhancer which automatically adds a semantic node terms to user queries containing a search term applicable to the semantic node term; and

relevant document finder based on enhanced queries including the semantic node term to locate documents which do not contain the search term but contains at least one other term that is related to the search term by the semantic node term applicable to a user's search.

10. (Currently Amended)

The search program of claim 9, wherein the enhanced search query automatically includes a search containing "the user's search query" OR "the semantic node" to automatically locate documents without user intervention containing either the search query term or the term semantically related term.

11. (Original)

The search program of claim 10 including code for a semantic dictionary which defines user query terms in accordance with the semantic nodes in the semantic dictionary.

12. (Currently Amended)

The search system program of claim 11 including code for a semantic dictionary builder which off line regularly examines new user queries in the system log to increase the terms in the semantic dictionary.

13. (Original)

The search system program of claim 12 including code for ranking the results of searches using the enhanced queries.

14. (Currently Amended)

The search system program of claim 13, ~~including a text analyzer comprising~~ wherein the semantic binder includes:

code for a sub-module that identifies domain specific terms in a given query, using domain specific glossary;

code for a sub-module that finds synonyms and related terms for the identified terms, using domain specific thesaurus;

code for a sub-module that finds other statistically close terms; and

code for a sub-module that identifies relevant domain specific categories for the identified terms, using domain specific ontology.

15. (Currently Amended)

The search system program of claim 14, wherein the dictionary builder includes a sub-module that binds queries in the identified semantic taxonomy categories, using the original results of the ~~text analyzer~~ semantic binder.

16. (Original)

The search system program of claim 15, wherein a semantic binder including the module comprises:

A sub-module that adds new doc-query links to the meta-data of the textual index entries to link the documents to the semantic taxonomy categories.